

Advice for Taking your Education to the Next Level

Shift Your Mind Set: The burden of learning is on your shoulders as the student, but instructor has the final say

Determine what instructor expects and wants – then provide it IN THEIR CONTEXT

You must know and understand the material

Devote time to memorizing and understanding – the little details help to build the “big picture” and if you all ready see the big picture, these details help to “flesh it out” and support it. A excellent student has comprehension of both “big picture” and supporting factual detail

Ask questions, make connections, look for patterns

-seek out help from others

Put in the effort. . . W - O - R - K

Actively participate in learning: lectures, note taking, reading, discussions

You must manage your time and resources

Prioritize and schedule

Spread bigger projects, assignments over time over time

Be prepared for the unexpected or last minute catastrophe

If you encounter an obstacle, you need to find a way to work past it – you need to be an active problem solver.

This does not mean you are completely alone, part of the solution may be asking someone else for help.

However, **the motivation, initiative and effort to seek a solution is your responsibility.**

Work Smarter, not just harder

Know your instructor

Read the syllabus, their webpage, talk to other students

Ask questions, seek clarifications

Work within the instructor’s context

Follow directions

Printed guidelines and instructions are there for a reason – READ THEM!

Transfer important dates from the syllabus to your planner/calendar

If given verbal instructions only, actively listen, write them down, check with someone else to see that you have all the instructions correct

Use a Rubric or Scoring Guide as a checklist – a guide on how assignment will be graded is a “blueprint” for completion.

Use “tools” to assist you

Study tools – flashcards, retrieval charts, well-organized notes, chapter or unit reviews, highlighted text, Word maps, illustrations, online resources

Planner – prioritize, organize and schedule

Study partner or group

Mnemonic devices

Rewrite notes, self-quiz, predict potential essays-then organize answers

Keep and Foster a support system - Communicate

Keep the people who care about you informed with the good, the bad, and the ugly ... or just “I’m doing OK.”

Communicate content or scheduling struggles with those concerned

This includes teachers, advisors and those in similar positions – seek them out, express your concerns or

questions; worst case would be they are of no help. In most cases you will gain much from talking with them

Be your own advocate

You are the best person to look out for your own interests

Educate yourself on options, seek advice from others, and consider implications

Maintain humility and a proper perspective – avoid “American (non) Idol” syndrome